

**KLEW-TV**  
**Jan. 2012 – March 2012**

**Texting While Driving in Idaho:**

New laws need instated in Idaho for texting and driving. Cell phone usage should be banned to prevent accidents in Idaho. The U.S. Department of Transportation shows distracted drivers are four times more likely to be in a serious accident.

**Ultrasound prior to Abortion in Idaho:**

The controversial measure in Idaho Legislature would require women seeking an abortion to undergo an ultrasound examination. Women with more information about their fetus may opt against terminating their pregnancy. Legislators aim to decrease abortions in Idaho.

**Lewiston Storm Water Fee:**

Five Valley entities took the City of Lewiston to court because the City collected Storm water fees from residents. Idaho Supreme Court ruled that it was an illegal tax. After citizens pressure, it took two months for city to make a decision to give the money back.

**Asotin County Family Aquatic Center Funding:**

Valley residents are upset that the City of Clarkston stopped funding for the aquatic center. In 2007 voters approved an initiative that allocated 0.3% sales taxes go to the county for maintenance and operation of the aquatic center.

**Education Cuts/Teachers Salary:**

Idaho ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> friendliest state for teachers' salaries. There is a need to attract and retain good teachers. Idaho is losing good teachers to other states.

**KLEW-TV**  
**Issues/Programs List**  
**Jan. 2012 – March 2012**

**The Need to Address Texting While Driving in Idaho**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/31/12, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:41

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho drivers could soon face stricter penalties for texting while driving. Right now, you can get cited for inattentive driving but a new bill would differentiate texting from other distractions and give it its own set of consequences. The Senate Transportation Committee unanimously supported the printing of the new bill, which would define texting and make texting while driving an infraction. Supporters say the current inattentive driving umbrella is not enough.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/15/12, 6:00p.m.

Duration: 1:50

Description: KLEW News reported that an Idaho State Senate panel voted unanimously in favor of a bill that would ban texting while driving. Texting while driving is a sensitive issue for the State of Idaho and many fear their lives are in danger. "It is dangerous, it is unnecessary," said concerned citizen Marci Eisele. "It is almost as bad as talking on your phone because they are not paying attention, they don't watch the stop lights," said Stan Austin. "I had people almost hit me because they were paying attention more to their phone than they were to me." Stripping people of their rights to text while driving has come to a standstill these past few years after concerns came forward about enforcement and possible infringement on civil liberties. However, officials feel this is a very important step to ensuring the roads are as safe as they can possibly be. "I think that there are issues," said Lewiston Police Department Captain Tom Greene. "I think that it does affect the attentiveness of the driver. We are fully in support of that legislation and think it would be a good thing for the legislature to pass." "It's a cause of accidents, it is a cause of a lot of driving problems," said LPD Detective Eric Olson. "It has become a huge issue." The majority opinion seems to think that it is the youth drivers who are the most dangerous on the road, since they seem to be on their phones the most often.

"It's kids and younger adults who think it is okay," said Eisele. "They don't get that it is dangerous. They don't think it is them it is going to happen to I guess."

"I would say probably late teens, early twenties, maybe up to 30," said Austin.

This latest bill is sponsored by Senator Jim Hammond and states texting is "engaging in the review of, or manual preparation and transmission of, written communication via handheld wireless devices." The bill now goes to the floor of the full senate for consideration.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/24/11, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:23

Description: KLEW News reported that on Tuesday, The House Transportation Committee will take up a proposed ban on texting while driving, a measure already passed by the senate. As Idaho lawmakers debate a ban on texting while driving, one question they are asking is how it will be enforced. A traffic stop in Meridian, Idaho the alleged infraction, texting while driving. The driver was warned about Meridian's ban on texting while driving. The ordinance is similar to a bill passed by the senate that is now headed to the house. Meridian Police say the key is the vehicle must be moving but technically if you're stopped at a light you can text. Once the vehicle starts moving you are no longer in compliance with the ordinance. Police are looking more at the person who is typing on the phone, inputting information, takes hands off the wheel, mind off the roadway and eyes off the roadway. Two years ago, Senate passed anti-texting bill, but it died in the House on the last day of the session.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/28/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:23

Description: KLEW News reported that a bill that would ban texting while driving in Idaho has cleared another hurdle in its long legislative journey and is now headed to the House floor. The House Transportation and Defense Committee voted Tuesday to advance the legislation but aim to expand the ban to include law enforcement. The bill cleared the senate 29-6 last week. Similar legislation has failed several years ago.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/20/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:32

Description: KLEW News reported that house lawmakers want drivers to hang up while behind the wheel and if you don't, you'll be forced to pay up. The bill would cost people who text an \$85 fine and would be considered a non moving traffic violation. That means the ticket would not cost drivers any points on their license. The measure bans people from using smart phones and other hand held devices to send written communication while behind the wheel. Thirty five other states have nixed texting while driving and Idahoans say it's a good idea.

## **The Need to Address Ultrasound before Abortion**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/8/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:20

Description: KLEW News reported that about 250 people gathered at the Idaho State Capitol to protest a proposed bill that would require ultrasounds for women before they have an abortion. Scott Logan from our sister station in Boise has more. These protesters say Senate Bill 1349, if passed, would force women to undergo an invasive ultrasound prior to having an abortion. "I do think this bill is a bad idea because it mandates unnecessary medical procedures against women," said a concerned citizen. The wording in the bill states an ultrasound would be required, "using whatever method the physician and patient agrees it best." But opponents of the bill call it a political tactic to shame and bully women already burdened with a difficult health decision. "Mandating an unnecessary medical procedure is anathema, and the Republicans should be ashamed," said concerned citizen.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/14/12 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:24

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho stepped closer to requiring women to undergo an ultrasound examination of their fetus before terminating a pregnancy, a measure anti-abortion advocates hope will convince more women to opt against such a procedure. Boise Sen. Chuck Winder's legislation cleared the Senate State Affairs Committee Wednesday on a 7-2 vote, with Republicans favoring it and Democrats voting against. More than 200 people packed the emotional two-hour hearing. Opponents compared the bill to laws favored by Afghanistan's Taliban, while advocates argued those who would oppose requiring women to view their fetus were comparable to Holocaust deniers. Requiring doctors to perform an ultrasound, then ask women to view ultrasound images of their fetuses and listen to its heartbeat, would provide them with up-to-date information about the status of their fetus that would help them recognize the consequences of their decision, said Kerry Uhlenkott, of Right to Life of Idaho. "Clearly, real-time ultrasound images of the unborn child are truthful and not misleading," Uhlenkott told the panel before the vote. Idaho is among 11 states that require verbal counseling or written materials to include information on accessing ultrasound services, according to the Guttmacher Institute. At least seven states mandate that an abortion provider perform an ultrasound on each woman seeking an abortion, and require the provider to offer the woman the opportunity to view the image. Winder altered his original proposal, which could have required a transvaginal ultrasound in which a device is inserted into a woman's vagina rather than an abdominal ultrasound, to instead leave such decisions up to medical providers in consultation with the patient. Still, that appeared to do little or nothing to assuage the concerns of foes of the measure that the bill was an example of government leaders inserting themselves into medical decisions best left to women and their doctors in the privacy of an office. They also complained that requiring a woman to view an ultrasound could add significantly to costs of an abortion procedure, raising additional concerns that the measure provides no exceptions for medical emergencies or in instances when a woman is victim of

rape or incest. "The government is not a medical provider. This is a violation of medical privacy between a woman and her physician," said Yvette Sedlewicz. "Being forced to view it is cruel and unusual punishment." The bill now heads to the Senate floor for what's likely going to be subject to divisive debate.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/19/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:50

Description: KLEW News reported that a bill requiring women to get a pre-abortion ultrasound passed the Idaho Senate today. Scott Logan from KBOI was at the State Capitol and takes a look at both sides of the controversial bill. The mood when the senate took up the bill can only be described as somber, emotional debate lasted about an hour and a half. Senator Michelle Stennet said her research found only two instances where the state mandates a medical procedure, blood draw in a DUI case and lethal injection in an execution. Senate Bill 1837 would require a pre-abortion ultrasound using whatever method the physician and patient agree is best. But opponents of the measure say the bill requires fetal information only a transvaginal ultrasound can determine. Five republicans voted against the bill, Senator Shawn Keogh voted no saying her party has consistently fought against over reaching federal mandates. But supporters of the bill say the goal is to protect life. The bill passed by a 23 to 12 vote.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/20/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:45

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho State Senator Chuck Winder said he never meant to question the truthfulness of rape victims when he suggested on the senate floor that a doctor should ask a woman who says she was raped if the pregnancy could have been "caused by normal relations in a marriage." The republican assistant majority leader was speaking during closed testimony on a bill to require a woman to get an ultrasound before an abortion. Winder later said he meant to say he hoped a woman would work with her physician to determine if a fetus resulted from a rape or was, in fact, a result of consensual relations that occurred outside of the attack. Planned Parenthood of Idaho lobbyist Hannah Brass said her organization has fielded calls complaining about Winder's comments.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/21/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:30

Description: KLEW News reported that in the Idaho abortion debate intensified when pro-life organizers held live ultrasound demonstrations at the statehouse. Jennifer McGraw from our sister station KBOI is at the statehouse with the story. More than a hundred protestors gathered in front of the statehouse waving signs against a measure that requires women who want an abortion to get an ultrasound first. Protestors packed the west wing room, the hallways, and into an overflow area where some even heckled before live ultrasound demonstrations. The demonstration included six pregnant women in varying trimesters to show the features of the fetus as well as to demonstrate the procedure require getting an ultrasound using whatever method she and her doctor agree is best. When the mother was asked if she felt any pain at all she said no, if I could I would have an ultrasound every day. Pro choice protestors say that's not the issue here. A concerned citizen said, "I'm tired of the Idaho Senate and House infantilizing women and taking away our dignity and taking away the ability to make these tough choices."

## **The Need to Address Stormwater Fee**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/17/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:58

Description: KLEW News reported that the city appears to be leaning toward giving property owners 90 days to decide if they want the refund. If they don't receive a response, the city said it plans to keep the fees. The Lewiston City Council discussed options about how best to deal with refunding nearly 1.2 million dollars in illegally collected stormwater fees. The Idaho Supreme Court rules the city didn't have the authority to levy that tax. The council appears to be leaning toward mailing a card in an upcoming utility bill asking property owner if they'd like to receive the approximate \$54 refund, or if they'd like the city to keep the money. Refund money could come from the street maintenance program, the general fund, the Enterprise fund or a combination thereof.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/6/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:00

Description: KLEW News reported that The Lewiston City Council moved forward with plans to refund illegally collected stormwater fees. Councilors saw a draft of a plan the city manager laid out to return the fees. While we did not get to see the letter, it apparently outlined what the city did with the funds and leaves check boxes for residents to decide whether they want their money back, or if they want to donate it to the city. Some councilors disagreed with language that asked what residents would like to do before residents even get a check in their hands. Councilors Randall and Daniels agreed with Stevenson that it's the citizen's money and belongs to the people.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/9/12, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:40

Description: KLEW News reported that Lewiston officials have decided to refund all illegally collected stormwater fees rather than ask residents if they want the refund. The city collected about 1.2 million dollars in fees back in 2009 and 2010. The Idaho Supreme Court said the fees were a tax and the city didn't have the authority to levy that tax. The city didn't have to refund the money, but officials said they felt the need to do so. Residents paid about \$54 in fees. Businesses paid more. City leaders said they spend the money on the program. Although it never came to a vote, the majority of the council wanted to ask residents first if they wanted the refund. City Manager Jim Bennett said the money will have to come from the street maintenance budget. He said road repairs will be cut back the next couple years as a result.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/12/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:26

Description: KLEW News reported that the Lewiston City Council voted unanimously tonight to refund all stormwater fees the Idaho Supreme Court ruled the city collected illegally. The city says the nearly 1.2 million dollars in collected fees will either be credited to future utility bills or will be returned by check. The only question is the exact method the city will employ and the timeframe they plan to do it. The approximate amount is \$54 per residence. The city says all the funds were expended on the program. The city is figuring out where to come up with the money. One option is to borrow from the Enterprise Fund, but Mayor Kevin Poole says that needs to be paid back, likely via a property tax increase totaling about seven percent.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/13/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:47

Description: KLEW News reported that the Lewiston City Council approved the stormwater fee refund program Tuesday night by a unanimous vote. Lewiston City Manager Jim Bennett said checks will be issued to those people who paid the stormwater fee as soon as possible. Once a list is put together, finalized and double-checked, the checks will be issued. "I agree with doing this and hopefully everybody here and everyone in our viewing audience understand that we're going to send you a check. Some of you people like that idea and some of you people don't like that idea," said Mayor Pro Tem Brad Cannon. "So, if you don't like the idea, send it back, if you do like it, keep it." Cannon suggested to Bennett that he include information with the refund checks to let citizens choose to return the money back to the city if they don't want it.

### **The Need to Address Asotin County Family Aquatic Center Funding**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/2/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:02

Description: KLEW News reported that community members made a public declaration they are not happy with a recent decision by the Clarkston City Council. The frustration, disappointment and confusion of Lewis Clark Valley community members was expressed in an open letter published in the Lewiston Tribune. The letter addressed the Clarkston City Council their concern stem from the council's decision to cancel their annual contribution to the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center. Retired Financial Executive Jack Seeh said, "They broke promises to the county, which means the citizens who overwhelmingly voted for the Aquatic Center and its originality and the sales tax that they promised would be contributed to the Aquatic Center, but stopped." If the Aquatic Center does not receive funding or some alternative source of funding the facility will close.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/27/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:36

Description: KLEW News reported that at the Clarkston City Council meeting a key city committee recommended Clarkston not be represented at Tuesday night's Chamber of Commerce forum regarding Asotin County Family Aquatic Center funding. After receiving legal advice, the Clarkston Administration and Inter-governmental committee recommended no city council members attend, nor participate in the forum either on their own or as a member of the city. The committee also stated it was their opinion the financial situation is the county's responsibility, and the City of Clarkston should not be embroiled in it.



Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/7/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:31

Description: KLEW News reported that there may be light at the end of the tunnel for the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center who's facing funding difficulties. Asotin County Officials say there may be a few options to explore before any final decisions are made. Ideas range from establishing a junior taxing district, raising the sales tax, or borrowing money from a reserve fund. Officials say closing the safe place for kids to swim and laying people off wouldn't save the center any money. Commissioners are expected to come to a conclusion in the near future.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/9/12, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:43

Description: KLEW News reported that an initiative that would require the City of Clarkston to provide funding for the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center was filed Thursday. Former Clarkston City Attorney Scott Broyles filed an initiative petition, calling for the amendment of a 2007 city ordinance that allocates sales tax funding to the city's general fund. "At this point the people need to talk again, yes I'm a county resident, but this is a countywide problem and it is not as parochial as the city council would have you believe," said Broyles. "I was a positive vote when we built it and I was a positive vote when we came with the optional tax," said petitioner Connie Morrow. "Should the city have to start relinquishing up to a half a million dollars a year, of course we've got to look at the bigger picture," said City of Clarkston Public Works Director James Martin. If approved, the initiative would require the entire .03 percent optional sales tax collected by the city to be used for maintenance, operation and debt services of the aquatic center. As it stands now, some of that money from the general fund goes toward the funding of police and fire services. "We've got to look at the bigger picture of the infrastructure. The safety of the citizens overall - police, fire, good roads, good maintenance, that sort of thing," said Martin. "I'm real confident we will get it on the ballot. I expect once it's on the ballot it will pass," said Broyles. The City of Clarkston is in Asotin County. We are one community. Contrary to what some people believe, it is our responsibility to take care of the people of Asotin County and the City of Clarkston," said Morrow. "It's a time for the people to speak, it's the people's money, it's not the City of Clarkston council's money," said Broyles. Currently revenue goes into the city's general fund. However, the original 2007 ordinance intended the .03 percent sales tax to go toward maintenance and operations of the aquatic center. "Do they want to go swimming? Or do they want to have good streets and fire protection and police protection," said Martin. "What are we going to do? What are our young families and our kids going to go? Are they going to go to the river," said Morrow. "Safety and swimming is important, I think its great there is a facility where the kids can go and have that supervision," said Martin. "On the other hand, I learned to swim in the river and I'm still here." Petitioners will have 30 days to gather signatures if the initiative is declared legal. Petitioners must gather 15% of all registered voters signatures before the initiative will go to a vote of the people. Aquatic Center Director Nick Bacon said he's thankful for all of the support from the public.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/12/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:26

Description: KLEW News reported that the Lewiston City Council voted unanimously tonight to refund all stormwater fees the Idaho Supreme Court ruled the city collected illegally. The city says the nearly 1.2 million dollars in collected fees will either be credited to future utility bills or will be returned by check. The only question is the exact method the city will employ and the timeframe they plan to do it. The approximate amount is \$54 per residence. The city says all the funds were expended on the program. The city is figuring out where to come up with the money. One option is to borrow from the Enterprise Fund, but Mayor Kevin Poole says that needs to be paid back, likely via a property tax increase totaling about seven percent.

### **The Need to Address Education/Teachers Pay**

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/24/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:04

Description: KLEW News reported that Lewis-Clark State College President Tony Fernandez expressed the importance of wage increases to lawmakers in Boise. Fernandez said the college is very proud of its students in many areas, specifically the nursing, social work and radiation technology programs. Over the last ten years, the school has phenomenally improved in academics due to the quality of programs at the college. "I think any compensation to state employees and the faculty and staff at LCSC would be appreciated and it would go a long way in telling the faculty and staff that they are valued." Every year and in every discipline, LCSC performs better on professional examinations than the national averages. He said this is largely due to the staff's ability to maintain the quality of the programs. Even a nominal increase in wages or the governor's proposed one time 3% bonus is important for morale.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 1/26/12 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:43

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho's School Chief Tom Luna spoke in front of lawmakers and proposed adding \$38 million for pay for performance bonuses for teachers. But Senator Nicole Lefavour said it does little to keep teacher jobs. "There's only more money for teachers because there's pay for performance. There was actually a cut in money for teachers if you count in the salary based apportionment cuts that Luna has scheduled into his budget," said Lefavour. Luna defended his proposal by saying his plan not only saves teacher and their salaries, it adds more teacher positions. "She just didn't understand or doesn't follow what she's reading but fact is the budget I presented today, we will not see a decrease in the amount of money we spend on teachers and we will not see a decrease in the number of teachers we have."

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/15/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:34

Description: KLEW News reported that a state lawmaker wants to eliminate the part of Idaho's new education laws that shifts money from teacher salaries over the next several years to help fund technology upgrades and merit pay bonuses. Republican Senator Dean Cameron's bill was introduced in the Senate Finance Committee earlier today. The legislation doesn't backfill the \$14.7 million that was taken this year from employee pay and benefits to help pay for reforms introduced by Public Schools Chief Tom Luna. Cameron said the bill would stop the shifting of money from salaries in future years.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 2/28/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 2:03

Description: KLEW News reported that lawmakers approved a budget Tuesday for Idaho's public universities that would increase state support by \$18.1 million in 2013. The move boosts the pay of state employees who for the most part, have not had a raise in four years. The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee crafted a spending plan for higher education that includes \$446.3 million in total funding in the next fiscal year, up nearly \$50 million from this year. The increased budget for next year would bring state support for higher education up to levels set in 2006, when Idaho spend \$228.9 million in general funding on Boise State University, Idaho State University, University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 3/5/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:17

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho's public School budget and teacher pay are on the rise. The 2013 budget will increase by 4.6 percent and will total out around One and a half million dollars. That's an extra \$56 million over this year. It'll also increase teacher's base salary by about \$2,000. The average teacher compensation is going to go up over \$2,300. That is a significant increase. The new budget is now on the way to the legislature. If it gets through, the minimum salary for teachers will top \$30,000.